

GOLDEN TRIANGLE & UPPER MEKONG CRUISE PACKAGE

Embark on a journey like no other, exploring one of Southeast Asia's most remote and mystical regions. The Golden Triangle, once notorious for its association with the opium trade in the early 21st century, is now a hidden gem simply waiting to be discovered. This region, where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar converge, offers far more than meets the eye. At the heart of the Golden Triangle, the mighty Mekong River serves as the natural boundary and lifeblood of this enigmatic land. But the allure of the Triangle extends beyond these borders, reaching deep into Myanmar and Laos, with the charming city of Luang Prabang marking its easternmost point. The area remains wonderfully untamed, with the Mekong winding through untouched landscapes, embodying a timeless, mystical charm. The Golden Triangle is steeped in history, culture, and natural beauty. Its unique atmosphere is both magical and captivating, with stunning vistas and rich cultural heritage at every turn. The local communities, known for their warm hospitality and humble way of life, offer a glimpse into a simpler, contented existence. This curated travel experience takes you on an unforgettable adventure through Northern Thailand, the Upper Mekong, and Luang Prabang. Revel in the region's luxurious accommodations while moving at the leisurely pace of local life, immersing yourself in the captivating beauty and spirit of the Golden Triangle. Let time slow down as you enjoy each moment in one of the world's most fascinating and untouched destinations.



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrival in Luang Prabang

Upon arrival in Luang Prabang, you'll be whisked away to your luxurious retreat at the Rosewood Luang Prabang. Take the rest of the day to unwind and enjoy the hotel's exceptional amenities. For those seeking a bit of adventure, consider optional activities like a private cooking class, or borrow a complimentary bicycle to explore the charming streets of the town. Cycle through peaceful lanes, and perhaps stop at a local cafe for a refreshing coffee. As evening falls, savour a delicious



dinner at the hotel or venture into town for a meal (not included), where you can also visit the lively night market.

Dining: -

Pick-up at the airport, train station, or in Luang Prabang town (guest to advise). Check-in time is 14:00 hrs (early check-in is complimentary subject to room availability).

Day 2 - Tak Bat & Luang Prabang

Start your day at dawn with the enchanting century-old tradition of "Tak Bat" (self-arranged via hotel tuk-tuk), where locals gather in the heart of Luang Prabang to offer sticky rice and fruits to monks in a peaceful sunrise procession. Witnessing this serene ritual from a respectful distance is a truly memorable experience. Afterward, return to the hotel and indulge in a lavish breakfast to begin your day.

The rest of the day is yours to enjoy as you wish. Take advantage of the hotel's complimentary spa treatment to relax and rejuvenate. In the evening, treat yourself to a delectable multi-course Laotian meal at the romantic 'Manda de Lao,' widely regarded as one of the finest restaurants in town. Conclude your unforgettable stay in Luang Prabang before embarking on tomorrow's upstream cruise into the heart of the Golden Triangle.

Dining: B, D

Day 3 - Pak Ou Caves & Mekong River Cruise

After a delightful breakfast, you will be transferred to the downtown pier to embark on a four-day voyage aboard the boutique ship, Heritage Line 'Anouvong.' As you sail along the Mekong River through the Golden Triangle toward Northern Thailand, settle into your luxurious cabin before attending an insightful lecture on Laos' diverse ethnic groups in the ship's lounge. The first highlight of the journey is a visit to the sacred Pak Ou Caves, home to around 4,000 revered Buddhist statues. Explore the impressive lower cave before choosing from two optional excursions: an adventurous kayak tour along the tranquil Nam Ou River or a visit to the nearby village of Ban Keo, renowned for its traditional silk weaving and Lao whisky distillation.

The voyage then continues to the 200-year-old village of Ban Khok Phou, where the locals, part of the Lao ethnic group, practice mountain farming. The visit culminates with a traditional Baci ceremony, performed by village elders to bestow blessings upon your journey. As night falls, enjoy a welcome cocktail on an elevated sandbank, followed by a mouthwatering barbecue dinner amidst the breathtaking natural surroundings.

Dining: B, L, D

Day 4 - Hmong Village & Traditional Music

Start your day with a refreshing yoga session on the terrace deck





before enjoying a delicious breakfast. The morning brings a stop at the unique mountain village of Had Sako, home to the Hmong ethnic community. Here, you'll learn about their farming practices and visit a local home, where you'll be introduced to the traditional "Kene" instrument, a central part of Hmong culture.

In the afternoon, the journey continues to another village along the Mekong, where the Hmong, Lao Loum, and Khamo ethnic groups live in harmony. A visit to a family home provides an intimate look into the distinct histories and traditions of each group, offering a vivid complement to the insights from earlier lectures.

As evening approaches, enjoy a traditional dance performance on the open deck, followed by a cosy cinema night in the lounge. The featured film, "Chiang," which was shot in this region in 1927, will transport you back in time and set the tone for the next day's adventure.

Dining: B, L, D

Day 5 - Pakbeng & Elephant Sanctuary

As the Anouvong continues its upstream journey, start your day with a post-breakfast bamboo weaving workshop. The rest of the morning is yours to enjoy at your leisure--whether it's indulging in the spa, working out in the gym, or simply daydreaming as the stunning scenery passes by.

After lunch, the ship arrives at Pakbeng, where you'll visit Laos' most sustainable elephant sanctuary, nestled deep in the jungle along the riverside. Learn about the sanctuary's vital work and meet elephants roaming freely in their natural habitat, offering an unforgettable wildlife experience. If time allows, take a short excursion to Pakbeng's hilltop temple, where panoramic views of the river and surrounding landscapes await.

As the ship continues its northbound course, it will anchor for your final night on board. The evening concludes with a relaxed aperitif and a joyful long-table dinner on the terrace deck, where you can enjoy the serene beauty of the Mekong River one last time.

Dining: B, L, D

Day 6 - Golden Triangle & Lao Cooking Class

Feel free to enjoy a leisurely morning and extend your snooze if you wish, as breakfast is kept light in anticipation of a lavish culinary brunch later. As we sail deeper into the heart of the Golden Triangle, the day is yours to unwind at your own pace.

You can also join a fascinating presentation that delves into the rich and complex history of the Golden Triangle, covering the effects of colonialism, the opium trade, and the intricate roles played by Burma, Thailand, Laos, Britain, and China in shaping this region.



As we prepare for the lifestyle highlight of your final day on board, a Lao cooking class will introduce you to the region's culinary delights. This leads into a sumptuous brunch buffet, featuring an array of flavourful dishes and indulgent desserts, served in the restaurant, lounge, or on the terrace deck, ensuring a relaxed dining experience up until an hour before our arrival.

Upon docking, you will check out and be transferred to the Lao-Thai border, where you'll pass through immigration. Awaiting you on the other side is staff from the Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle, ready to take you to your next luxurious destination.

Dining: B, L, D

Day 7 - Golden Triangle & Elephant Experience

After breakfast, start your day with a guided exploration of local life. Accompanied by an expert camp guide, cruise along the Mekong River in a traditional long-tail boat, venturing into the heart of the Golden Triangle where Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos meet. Immerse yourself in the vibrant local scene by travelling like a native--hopping between songtaews and tuk-tuks to explore bustling markets and hidden gems. Find serenity at the ancient Chedi Luang temple before returning to the resort for lunch.

In the afternoon, choose to embark on another thrilling

adventure: the "My Elephant & I" experience, where you'll accompany elephants in their natural habitat for an unforgettable encounter. As the day winds down, enjoy a sunset cocktail during happy hour or indulge in a soothing treatment at the resort's spa before savouring your final dinner of the trip.

Dining: B, L, D

Day 8 - Chiang Rai & Departure

After a relaxing breakfast, enjoy your remaining time before midday--consider visiting the intriguing Opium Museum for a final cultural highlight. When you're ready, we will transfer you to Chiang Rai, either to the airport or the city centre, marking the end of your journey. We sincerely thank you for joining us and wish you a wonderful onward adventure!

Dining: B

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.





YOUR SHIP: ANOUVONG MEKONG CRUISE SHIP IN LAOS

Anouvong Mekong cruise ship in

YOUR SHIP:

Laos

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Anouvong is Heritage Line's first ever vessel to cruise the majestic Mekong River in Laos. This lesser-travelled stretch of one of the world's most spectacular waterways is home to serene nature, quaint villages and stunning temples. It is only fitting that a boat cruising this pristine and beautiful region of Laos should be named after the Vientiane Kingdom's last monarch, King Anouvong, who so loved his country that he bravely fought for its independence from neighbouring Siam. To create a true boutique sailing experience, Anouvong has only eight spacious staterooms and two luxurious suites. All cabins feature floor-to-ceiling windows and open onto elegant French balconies or a private terrace overlooking the verdant shores of the Mekong River. What makes Anouvong unique is the blend of traditional Laotian artwork with French-colonial accents. From the intimate onboard restaurant to the refined setting of the lounge which opens onto the expansive terrace deck, this design theme creates an atmosphere of luxury and savoir-vivre. Set at the stern of the ship. Anouvong's luminous spa adds a distinctive lifestyle element for endless hours of blissful relaxation. CAFÉ-BAR LOUNGE The indoor cafe-bar and lounge is

situated on the terrace deck and welcomes guests at any time of the day with elegantly designed sofas and cushioned rattan chairs. This lounge is the perfect setting to while away time, read and relax in an air-conditioned environment. Floor-to-ceiling glass windows encircle the lounge, allowing fantastic views of the dramatic backdrops. The lounge's doors open wide onto the terrace deck, creating a pleasant commute between these two public facilities on Anouvong. The lounge is also used for activities on board such as lectures, demonstrations or evening cinema screenings. BODHI SPA The state-of-the-art spa is located on the upper deck and occupies the ship's entire stern. Designed with a Laotian spiritual theme and grand tree of life mural, the spa atmosphere evokes a sanctuary of well-being. Guests find three treatment rooms in the Bodhi Spa. Comfortable chaise lounges for reflexology, manicures and pedicures alongside wonderful window outlooks comprise one part of the spa, whilst two private single rooms, which can be combined for couples treatments, complete the Anouvong's spa haven. TERRACE DECK Anouvong's terrace beckons guests to enjoy the outdoors while on board. Comfortable sun loungers make for a flawless place to take the weight off your feet and marvel at the breath-taking views while creme-coloured sun sails provide cooling shade. Two sheltered cabanas offer a hideaway for couples wishing to cherish a special moment together in privacy. DE-LAGRÉE DINNING HALL The dining hall, named after the leader of the French expedition which fully explored the Mekong River, evokes the beauty of the temples of Luang Prabang paired with French-style tile flooring. The entire rear wall is covered in intricate gold leaf artwork depicting



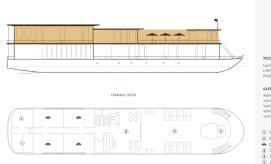
traditional Laotian patterns, while two carved wooden statues inspired by Buddhist mythology adorn the opposite side of the room. The dark brown colonial furniture along with the gold tones of the restaurant give the room a timeless elegance, while massive full-sized windows on both sides of the vessel flood the dining hall with sunlight. CUISINE Aboard Anouvong, we take pleasure in presenting the rich and flavourful cuisine of Laos and Southeast Asia. Whether our chefs prepare traditional Laotian recipes passed down for generations or treats from around the world, we use the best and freshest ingredients to please even the most particular of palates. Your voyage comes with a variety of culinary occasions - whether dining a la carte or bountiful buffet with the spectacular ambiance of the De Lagree Dining Hall, open-air barbecues, al-fresco breakfasts, sandbank aperitifs or in-suite afternoon teas. ACTIVITIES Local dance & music performances, sandbank barbecue and cocktail events, Tai Chi class, interesting lectures and presentations by local experts and historians, cooking class, evening cinema, kayaking, traditional welcome ceremony, board games, public Wi-Fi (subject to mobile network availability), small library & boutique

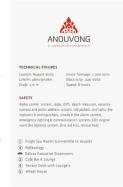


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